

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
Quarterly Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2017**

Call to Order: The Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Introductions: In attendance were the following DVCC members: Chief Judge Michael Newell, (Chair, Family Court), Nicole Poore (General Assembly), Chief Defender Brendan O'Neill (ODS), Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS), Secretary Josette Manning (DSCYF), Dr. Julie Silverstein (CCHS), Laura Graham, Esq. (CLASI), Ariana Langford (Victim Voices Heard), Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), Cpl./3 Adrienne Owen (DSP), Diane Glenn.

Also in attendance were Hon. Vivian Medinilla (Superior Court), Allen Grinstead (DOC), Ellie Torres (Family Court), Terica Jones (CJC), Claire DeMatteis (FCEP-Family Court), Judge Jennifer Ranji (Family Court), Blanche Creech (Peoples' Place II), Tim Collins (Public), Trinity Benson (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Paradise Hayle (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Lisa Lynch (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Sharday James (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Molly Yoo (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Amber Hickman-Taylor (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Kameen Rollins (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Joseph Carter (Boys & Girls Club of DE), Sean Lugg (DOJ), Det. Jeffrey Hill (Capitol Police), Eddie Armor (Omega Psi Phi), Gregg Bunkly (Omega Psi Phi), Patricia Daily Lewis (Beau Foundation), Sue Ryan (DCADV), Marcey Rezac (DCADV), Delsey Morales (CCHS).

DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, and Pat Kwetkauskie.

Minutes: A motion to approve the September 11, 2017 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

VAWA Implementation Committee Information: Terica Jones (CJC) sought approval from the Council for the following grant programs:

- **FFY2014 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$913,366.00 for the FFY2014 STOP VAWA Grant. The CJC had a remaining balance of \$25,021.00 in reverted funds. All funds must be fully expended by the federal end date of 6/30/18. The VAWA Implementation Committee recommends \$20,021 be awarded to SOAR, Inc for a new program to provide services to teen victims of sexual assault. \$5,000 of discretionary funds has been recommended for the DVCC to support training on the Danger Assessment Protocol for victims' advocates. The details of each program were provided in the handouts. A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded. The funding recommendations were approved.
- **FFY2015 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$904,496.00 for the FFY 2015 S.T.O.P VAWA Formula Grant Program. The FFY2015 Grant is the second year under the "FFY2014-FFY2016 Three Year Implementation Plan" that was approved by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in October 2014. The CJC had \$60,000 in reverted funds that must go to address sexual assault. The VAWA Implementation Committee is recommending the funds be

awarded to continue the SOAR, Inc program. This will keep them operational for a full year. The recommendation was detailed in the handout. A motion was made to approve; motion seconded. The motion passed.

- **FFY2016 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$943,114.00 for the FFY 2016 S.T.O.P VAWA Formula Grant Program. The FFY2016 Grant is the final year under the “FFY2014-FFY2016 Three Year Implementation Plan” that was approved by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) in October 2014. The recommendation is for SOAR, Inc’s continuation project. A motion was made to approve the funding; motion was seconded. The motion passed.
- **FFY2017 STOP Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:** Delaware was awarded \$939,139.00 for the FFY 2017 S.T.O.P VAWA Formula Grant Program. The FFY2017 Grant is the first year under the “FFY2017-FFY2020 Four Year Implementation Plan” that is currently under review by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). The CJC released a competitive solicitation for the amount that is obligated for NPO Victim Service programs. The other programs are for the amount that is for prosecution and law enforcement programs. The programs recommended for funding were detailed on the CJC Standard Form. A motion was made to approve funding for the recommended programs; motion seconded. The motion passed. An unobligated balance remains. The VAWA Implementation Committee will make recommendations for the balance at a later date
- **SFY2017 Domestic Violence Fund:** The deposits made to the Domestic Violence Fund for the July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017 period totaled \$94,995.00. This amount is .2% less than the previous year. The CJC receives 5% (\$4,750.00) for administration of the DV Fund. Total amount for available for the direct service is: \$90,245.00. The CJC released a competitive solicitation for the funds. The programs recommended for funding were detailed on the CJC Standard Form. A motion was made to approve funding for the recommended programs; motion seconded. The motion passed.

Nominations for At-Large Members: Per the DVCC Statute, At-Large Members are voted in on during the first meeting of each calendar year. The Chair opened the floor for nominations, including current members to consider continuing to serve. All nominations should be submitted to Maureen Monagle by the end of February 2018. The Council will vote during the March 2018 meeting.

The Executive Committee has discussed amending the At-Large Members term to be for a period of three years. This would require a change to DVCC statute and the Council’s By-laws.

Presentation – 2017 Healthy Relationships Poster Contest – Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware

The winners of this year’s poster contest were recognized by the Council and received their awards. Presenting awards to youth from the Boys & Girls Clubs were representatives from Christiana Care Health System - Department of Family and Community Medicine, the Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children and The Psi Iota Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in affiliation with the H.O.P.E Foundation.

Family Court Enhancement Project: Judge Jennifer Ranji (FC) updated the Council on a recent trip to Chicago, IL to review the Expeditor position which is a high level mediator position who addresses custody and visitation issues after a judge has determined that abuse occurred. The FCEP Committee is reviewing to see if this is a good fit for Delaware. The Committee is also working on a full day SAFER training in April 2018 for Judges, Commissioners and Family Law Bar. Topics include utilizing a tool designed to help judicial officers think about domestic violence in terms of custody. The Committee is also working on procedures for notifying judges when a PFA is filed in pending custody cases. The goal is to have this PFA notification procedure implemented in February 2018.

Update on recommendation progress: 1) New Castle County now has two PFA days; 2) PFA process script given by Commissioners to the both litigants will be converted to video; 3) Intake Center furniture has been ordered to create a user friendly private area; 4) An informational sheet for self-represented litigants is being drafted; 4) Revised Civil Rule 16 will be effective January 1, 2018 with several changes for the mediation process, and will remove the barrier to judicial scheduling for failure to complete parent education. 5) Disclosure training for mediators will take place next week.

Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) Update: Natasha Smith (DVCC) informed the Council that the FIRT Annual Report will be sent to the Council prior to the next quarterly meeting.

DVCC Committee Updates:

Children & DV: Secretary Manning (DSCYF) updated the Council on the progress of developing an on-line parenting course. In addition the committee is working on developing a bench card for Judges and Commissioners as well as proposed legislation to revise the Delaware code as it relates to the definition of a perpetrator of domestic violence. The Safe & Together project is in Phase I. Phase I includes interviews with key partners in the DV Liaison program as well as a paperwork review. Phase II will begin in late January/early February 2018. This phase will include technical assistance and training. Lastly, Secretary Manning also wanted to make the Council aware of a concern that was brought to her attention regarding the Criminal Code Rewrite. There is some concern the charge of endangering the welfare of the child has been eliminated and may now be assumed under the charge of reckless endangering.

Criminal Justice: Brendan O'Neill (ODS) stated the committee is meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, and will review the Summary Report created by the Domestic Violence High Risk Team Ad Hoc Advisory Board.. Council moved to table the Summary Report until next quarterly meeting in March 2018.

Treatment: Committee will meet in January to review recommendations.

Immigration: Laura Graham (CLASI) stated the committee will meet tomorrow with guest speakers. The Immigration Guide will be update. It was mentioned that there is still fear about ICE at court but Delaware has not had this experience.

Training Committee: Ellie Torres (FC) had an Emerge Conference review and discussed future trainings to include on-line courses. Development of on-line courses for law enforcement to include topics of strangulation and predominate aggressor.

Elderly & DV: Pat Kwetkauskie (DVCC) stated the committee met on November 30th in the House of Representatives conference room, Carvel State office building in Wilmington. During the meeting, we identified several strategies to implement some of the recommendations included in the report “The Elderly and Domestic Violence in Delaware”. These include: 1) developing an “infographic” which highlights key information from the report; 2) conducting outreach and education to state legislators during the next session; and 3) exploring opportunities for publicity, such as media interviews and public service announcements, as a way to reach elderly who may be at risk for harm by a family member.

Executive Director’s Report and Announcements:

- Summarized Center for Court Innovations report. Priorities and recommendations given to Council. Next step, CCI will help define some deliverables with dates and timeline which will be the Councils goals and objectives for the next few years.
- Initiative Name – (acronym) PEACE
- TDVAM Proclamation will be February 6 at 11:30 a.m. Governor conference room
- The November budget hearing went well.

Public Comment:

- Tim Collins, member of the public, made statements to the Council regarding his concerns that men are also victims of domestic violence.
- Sue Ryan, Executive Director of the Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCADV), informed the Council that the DCADV preformed a needs assessment survey with advocates throughout the State. The needs assessment survey will be shared with the DVCC once the report is finalized.
 - The Coalition is involved in conversations regarding the criminal code rewrite.

Next Meeting Date: Monday, March 12 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.